AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In accordance with the PTO's present amendment format, a detailed listing of all claims has been provided. A status identifier is provided for each claim in parentheses following each claim number. Changes to the claims are shown by strikethrough (for deleted text) or underlining (for added text).

In the Claims:

Claims 1-5 are currently pending.

Claims 1, 3-5 are amended.

No claims are canceled.

No new claims are added.

Claims 1-5 are currently pending.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended)   A method of synchronizing objects between two devices when some of the objects are intermittently unavailable on one of the devices, wherein the method prevents the devices from deleting an object when its corresponding object on the other device is unavailable, comprising:

creating a list of the objects to update on a first computing device and a second computing device, wherein the objects on the second computing device are updated using corresponding objects on the first computing device and wherein the second computing device deletes an object when the first device cannot access the corresponding object; and

if an object is on the list, then instructing the second computing device to refrain from updating the object when the first computing device cannot access the corresponding object.

2.   (Original)   The method as recited in claim 2, further comprising removing the object from the list when the corresponding object is permanently removed from the first device.

3.   (Currently Amended)   A method of maintaining contemporaneous data items within corresponding objects when one of the corresponding objects has having new data items and old data items, wherein the method prevents devices from deleting an object during synchronization when its corresponding object is unavailable, comprising:

listing pairs of corresponding objects ~~for synchronization~~, wherein a first member of each pair resides on a first computing device and a second member of each pair resides on a second computing device;

synchronizing each available [[a]] pair of objects with new data items from either object in the pair; and

protecting an object and the data items it contains from deletion during synchronization if a corresponding object in a listed pair is unavailable ~~missing~~.

4.   (Currently Amended)   A method of maintaining ~~allowing for~~ a contemporaneous corresponding object_s_ on a first and a second device throughout synchronization, wherein the method prevents the devices from deleting an object when its corresponding object is unavailable, comprising:

creating a list of corresponding objects prior to the synchronization;

during synchronization, determining if an object on the list exists in the first device;

if the object does not exist in the first device then determining if the object exists in the second device; and

if the object exists in the second device then protecting the object from deletion caused by the synchronization and allowing the first device to access the object or providing the object to the first device.

5.   (Currently Amended)   A synchronization method for computing devices, wherein the method prevents devices from deleting an object when its corresponding object is unavailable, comprising:

creating a list of corresponding objects stored on two computing devices;

communicatively coupling the two computing devices for synchronization;

~~if one of the computing devices deletes an object to be synchronized when the corresponding object is missing on the other computing device then~~ preventing deletion of the object <u>during synchronization when the corresponding object is unavailable and the</u> ~~to be synchronized if the missing~~ object is on the list.